

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A receiving apparatus for receiving television broadcasting signals, comprising:

- a manipulating unit for instructing operation
5 of the receiving apparatus;
profile processing means for updating contents of an internal user profile based on a manipulating history of said manipulating unit;
external interface means for inputting an
10 external user profile from outside of said receiving apparatus;
selection means for selectively outputting the internal user profile processed by said profile processing means and the external user profile input
15 from said external interface means; and
searching means for searching a program among the television broadcasting signals based on the internal user profile or the external user profile, output from said selection means.

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2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

- picture screen generating means for generating a guidance picture screen according to a search
25 result of said searching means; and
display control means for outputting an image data representing the guidance picture screen

generated by said picture screen generating means to a display apparatus.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
5 said searching means includes:

storing means for storing the internal user profile and the external user profile output from said selection means; and

control means for controlling to write or read
10 out the internal user profile and the external user profile to/from said storing means.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein said searching means has a first mode
15 for storing the internal user profile selected by said selection means in said storing means and performing search based on the internal user profile stored in said storing means and a second mode for storing the external user profile selected by said
20 selection means in said storing means and performing search based on the external user profile stored in said storing means, and

wherein said control means controls said storing means to delete the external user profile
25 stored in said storing means in a predetermined time after storing the external user profile selected by said selection means in the second mode.

5. An apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein said searching means has a first mode for storing the internal user profile selected by said selection means in said storing means and

5 performing search based on the internal user profile stored in said storing means and a second mode for storing the external user profile selected by said selection means in said storing means and performing search based on the external user profile stored in
10 said storing means, and

wherein said control means controls said storing means to delete the external user profile stored in said storing means, in response to completion of the searching by said searching means
15 in the second mode.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said profile processing means does not update contents of the external user profile.

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7. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting a user; and

control means for controlling said selection

25 means to select the internal user profile when a predetermined user is set by said setting means and select the external user profile when a user except

the predetermined user is set.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a user profile storing unit for storing an
5 internal user profile of the predetermined user, and wherein said selection means selectively outputs the external user profile and the internal user profile stored in said user profile storing unit.

10 9. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising storage means for storing the television broadcasting signals received by said receiving means, and
wherein said storage means stores program data
15 selected based on the search result of said searching means.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said searching means additionally
20 searches programs among the data stored in said storage means.

11. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising instructing means for instructing whether
25 or not to update contents of the external user profile on the basis of the manipulating history, wherein said profile processing means

additionally updates contents of the external user profile based on the manipulating history according to the profile updating instruction of said instructing means.

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12. An apparatus according to claim 11,
wherein said external interface means
additionally outputs the external user profile having
contents updated by said profile processing means
10 outside of said apparatus.

13. An information processing apparatus for
processing information based on a user profile,
comprising:
15 profile processing means for generating an
internal user profile according to a processing
operation of said information processing apparatus;
profile inputting means for inputting an
external user profile from outside of said
20 information processing apparatus;
selection means for selectively outputting the
internal user profile obtained by said profile
processing means and the external user profile input
by said profile inputting means; and
25 information processing means for processing
information based on the internal user profile or the
external user profile, output from said selection

means.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13,
wherein said information processing means
5 selects the information based on the internal user
profile or the external user profile, output from
said selection means.

15 14. An apparatus according to claim 13,
wherein said information processing means
searches the information based on the internal user
profile or the external user profile output from said
selection means.

15 16. An apparatus according to claim 13,
wherein said information processing means
compares the internal user profile or the external
user profile, output from said selection means with
the information.

20 17. An apparatus according to claim 13, further
comprising receiving means for receiving information
transmitted from outside of said apparatus,
wherein said information processing means
25 processes the information received by said receiving
means based on the internal user profile or the
external user profile, output from said selection

means.

18. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said information processing means includes:

5 storing means for storing the internal user profile and the external user profile, output from said selection unit; and

control means for controlling to write or read out the internal user profile and the external user profile to/from said storing means.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said searching means includes a first mode for storing the internal user profile selected
15 by said selection means and processing information based on the internal user profile stored in said storing means and a second mode for storing the external user profile selected by said selection means and processing information based on the
20 external user profile stored in said storing means, and

wherein said control means controls said storing means to delete the external user profile stored in said storing means in a predetermined time
25 after storing the external user profile selected by said selection means in the second mode.

20. An apparatus according to claim 18,
wherein said searching means includes a first
mode for storing the internal user profile selected
by said selection means and processing information
5 search based on the internal user profile stored in
said storing means and a second mode for storing the
external user profile selected by said selection
means and processing information based on the
external user profile stored in said storing means,
10 and

wherein said control means controls said
storing means to delete the external user profile
stored in said storing means in response to
completion of the processing of information based on
15 the external user profile by said information
processing means in the second mode.

21. An apparatus according to claim 13, further
comprising storage means for storing information, and
20 wherein said information processing means
processes the information stored in said storage
means.

22. A method of receiving television
25 broadcasting signals by a receiving apparatus,
comprising:
a profile processing step of changing contents

of an internal user profile based on a manipulating history of said apparatus;

an inputting step of inputting an external user profile from outside of said apparatus;

5 a selection step of selectively outputting one of the internal user profile and the input external user profile; and

a searching step of searching programs among the television broadcasting signals based on the
10 internal user profile or the external user profile.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein said searching step includes:

a storing step of storing the internal user
15 profile and the external user profile output in said selection step; and

a control step of controlling to write and read out the internal user profile and the external user profile in said storing step.

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24. A method according to claim 23,

wherein the searching step includes a first mode for storing the selected internal user profile in said storing step and performing search based on
25 the stored internal user profile and a second mode for storing the selected external user profile in said storing step and performing search based on the

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stored external user profile, and

wherein said control step controls said storing step to delete the stored external user profile in a predetermined time after storing the external user

5 profile selected in the second mode.

25. A method according to claim 23,

wherein said searching step includes a first mode for storing the selected internal user profile
10 in said storing step and performing search based on the stored internal user profile and a second mode for storing the selected external user profile in said storing step and performing search based on the stored external user profile, and

15 wherein said control step controls the storing step to delete the stored external user profile in response to completion of the searching in said searching step in the second mode.

20 26. A method according to claim 22,

wherein said profile processing step does not update contents of the external user profile.

25 27. A method according to claim 22, further comprising:

a setting step of setting a user; and
a control step of controlling said selection

step to select the internal user profile when a predetermined user is set by said setting step and select the external user profile when a user except the predetermined user is set.

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28. A method according to claim 27, further comprising a user profile storing step of storing an internal user profile of the predetermined user, and

10 wherein said selection step selectively outputs the external user profile and the internal user profile stored in said user profile storing step.

29. A method according to claim 23, further comprising a storage step of storing the television
15 broadcasting signals received by said receiving step, and

wherein said storage step stores program data selected based on the search result of said searching step.

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30. A method according to claim 29,

wherein said searching step additionally searches programs among the data stored by said storage step.

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31. A method according to claim 22, further comprising an instructing step of instructing whether

or not to update contents of the external user profile on the basis of the manipulating history, and wherein said profile processing step additionally updates contents of the external user profile based on the manipulating history according to the profile updating instruction of said instructing step.

32. A method according to claim 31, further comprising an outputting step of outputting the external user profile having contents updated by said profile processing step to the external of said apparatus.

33. A method of processing information based on a user profile by an information processing apparatus, comprising:

- a profile processing step of generating an internal user profile according to a processing operation of said apparatus;
- a profile inputting step of inputting an external user profile from outside of said apparatus;
- a selection step of selectively outputting one of the internal user profile and the input external user profile; and
- an information processing step of processing information based on the selected one of the internal

user profile or the external user profile.

34. A storing medium which stores program to
carry out the method mentioned in any one of claims
5 22 to 33 by using a computer.